

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

APPLICATION BRANCH

PAUL CLIFFORD REID

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: January 14, 2002

For: FENCE SUPPORT

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

To the Honorable Commissioner  
of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in the above-identified Application which is filed under 35 U.S.C. §111(a) as a continuation of co-pending International Application No. PCT/NZ00/00104, filed June 20, 2000, International Publication No. WO 01/04440 A1, published January 18, 2001. See 35 U.S.C. §364 and 35 U.S.C. §120. Priority based thereon of June 20, 2000 is claimed and is further claimed for July 14, 1999, based on New Zealand Application No. 336774, filed on such date.

Prior to calculating the filing fee for this Application, please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A Substitute Specification is submitted herewith. It is requested that the Substitute Specification be substituted for the original Specification, the original of which is being

submitted herewith for the instant Application. No new matter has been added to the Substitute Specification. It will be appreciated that claims originally set forth in subject Application prior to this Preliminary Amendment remain part of the original disclosure of the Application. A marked-up copy of the original Specification of the invention is submitted herewith for comparison purposes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-9, 11-17 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

Claim 18. A fence support comprising a sleeve for fitting over a support member comprising at least one web, said web comprising at least one means to support lengths of material, said means comprising an incision.

Claim 19. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, comprising said supported lengths of material wherein said supported lengths of material are electrified.

Claim 20. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve is composed of an insulating material.

Claim 21. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said support member comprises a rod.

Claim 22. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve comprises at least one internal projection for frictional connecting said sleeve and said support member.

Claim 23. A fence support in accordance with Claim 22, wherein said at least one projection is deformable.

Claim 24. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve is substantially composed of extruded material.

Claim 25. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve is substantially composed of molded material.

Claim 26. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, further comprising a cap covering said sleeve and said support member.

Claim 27. A fence support in accordance with Claim 26, wherein said cap is waterproof.

Claim 28. A fence support in accordance with Claim 26, wherein said cap is lockable.

Claim 29. A fence support comprising a sleeve for fitting over a support member comprising at least two webs, said webs each comprising at least one means to support lengths of material.

Claim 30. A fence support in accordance with Claim 29, wherein said means to support lengths of material each comprises a slot.

Claim 31. A fence support in accordance with Claim 30, wherein said slots are disposed at opposing angles relative to each other.

Claim 32. A fence support in accordance with Claim 18, wherein said sleeve comprises a means for receiving a promotional display.

Claim 33. A method of constructing a fence support comprising the steps of fitting a sleeve over a support member, said sleeve being provided with at least one web, said web being provided with at least one incision, and supporting a wire in said incision.

Claim 34. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, comprising electrifying said wire.

Claim 35. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, wherein said sleeve is composed of a dielectric material.

Claim 36. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, wherein said support member comprises a rod.

Claim 37. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, wherein said sleeve comprises at least one internal projection which is frictionally fixed between said sleeve and said support member.

Claim 38. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 37, comprising providing that at least one said projection is deformable.

Claim 39. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, comprising extruding said support.

Claim 40. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, comprising forming said sleeve substantially of molded material.

Claim 41. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 33, comprising covering said sleeve and said support member with a cap.

Claim 42. A method of construction a fence in accordance with Claim 41, comprising waterproofing said cap.

Claim 43. A method of construction a fence in accordance with Claim 41 comprising providing that said cap is lockable.

Claim 44. A method of constructing a fence support comprising fitting a sleeve over a support member which is provided with at least two webs, said webs each being provided with at least one slot to support lengths of material.

Claim 45. A method of constructing fence in accordance with Claim 44, comprising forming said slots with opposing angles.

Claim 46. A method of advertising comprising fitting a sleeve over a support member, providing a web with support means on said sleeve for receiving lengths of material, and providing a promotional display on said sleeve.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

In lieu of the Abstract that appears to the right of the Figure on the cover page of the original Application submitted herewith, please substitute the Abstract of the Disclosure appended hereto.

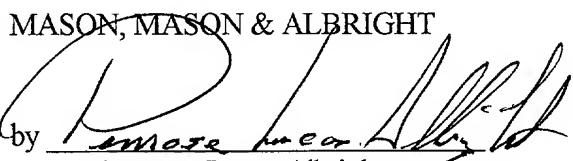
**REMARKS**

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is (1) To provide a Substitute Specification and an Abstract which are in formats customary for U.S. patent applications; (2) To amend the claims in this Application to eliminate multiple-dependent claims therefrom; (3) To establish a filing fee; and (4) To amend the claims so that they are more nearly in formats customary for U.S. patent applications. It is to be understood, nevertheless, the claims originally set forth remain part of the original disclosure of this Application.

As amended by this Preliminary Amendment, there are a total of thirty-three (33) claims, seven (7) of which are independent claims. Accordingly, a filing fee of \$655.00 appears to be required and a check to cover same is submitted herewith. However, if this is in error, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is authorized to credit or debit our Account No. 13-2000 as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fence support device and method for constructing a fence support which comprises a sleeve for fitting over a supporting member such as a rod extending vertically from a concrete base. The sleeve can be constructed of extruded insulating material and includes deformable internal projections to secure the sleeve by friction to the supporting member. The sleeve comprises at least one web or flange extending longitudinally and normally therefrom which has slots or incisions therein for a supporting lengths of material such as electrified wires. In one embodiment a pair of supporting means are slots disposed at opposing angles to facilitate securing lengths of wire.

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